

2010-2011



In 2003, the Ada County Historic Preservation Council initiated the County Treasure sign program to raise public awareness of the historic sites and structures located within the County and to encourage private owners to preserve them for future generations. This program honors historic sites each year by placing the special County Treasure sign on their property for a two-month period.. Suggestions for nominations are solicited from local historic preservation commissions and societies and

2010-2011 Award Winners

The early pioneers in Ada County found a broad river valley surrounded by fertile but arid sage brush covered terraces. By 1864 small-scale irrigation projects began on Eagle Island bottom lands to raise stock and crops to supply the miners in the Boise Basin.

By the 1890s this area had seen the development of private irrigation companies and thus larger canal systems, such as the Phyllis Canal, supplying a much larger area. This coupled with the arrival of the railroads providing easy shipment to distant population centers resulted in this area becoming a center for fruit production. One of the most important products was dried prunes.

The creation of the Interurban Loop railway in 1911 connecting Boise, Nampa, and Caldwell made the rapid delivery of fresh dairy products possible. This resulted in a major dairy industry being formed in the area.

The city of Eagle began as one of the small farming communities serving the commercial needs of this area.

As noted in the 1999 Phase II Ada County Study:

“The suburbanization of Ada County farmland and small farming communities has increased as market prices for farm goods have decreased. The value of farmland for housing developments is far higher than its agricultural value. Small pockets of historic farmsteads remain, but are imminently threatened by complete destruction of their rural character.”

We seek to call attention to the historic background of this area by designating the included properties as County Treasures.

The County Treasures sign will be placed at each of the properties during the period shown.

*Ada County HPC
May 2010*

Eagle Hotel

A *National Register of Historic Places* site, the Eagle Hotel is a rectangular, two-story molded concrete block structure with sash windows, paneled single-light doors, and a small, one-story, concrete block rear ell. Details include classically massed porch posts and a denticulate cornice. The Hotel is representative of the development of a small commercial center to serve the rural settlement of Eagle during the period 1902 to 1910. During those years Eagle’s main street, which is also a thoroughfare connecting Boise with other valley centers, gained a grocery store, an Odd Fellows’ building, the Eagle Drug Store, the hotel, and a few other businesses. The hotel was built by Thomas Hugh Aikens, Eagle’s “founder” and its major developer-promoter.

It is architecturally significant as a representative of early concrete block construction in the Boise Valley, a type of construction that became popular around 1900. According to one source, the blocks were manufactured in Eagle by local resident, Frank Me-haffey. The hotel primarily served as a long term quarters for workers on the Eagle Bridge, the Odd Fellows Hall, and the Inter-urban Trolley. It also housed teachers from the Enterprise School District and was generally known as “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.” It’s front room also served as the first real estate office in Eagle. Today it houses several business offices and personal grooming businesses.

The Hotel was listed on the *National Register* in 1982.

Jun/Sep 2010

99 E. State St., Eagle



About the Council

The Council was created on August 25, 1988 to preserve and enhance cultural and historic sites throughout Ada County and to increase awareness of the value of historic preservation to citizens and local businesses. Currently the Council is composed of nine volunteer members that commit to serve a three-year term and are appointed by the Board of Ada County Commissioners.

This and other publications of the Ada County Historic Preservation Council are available from our website at <http://adaweb.net/hpc>.



This program receives federal funds from the National Park Service through the Idaho State Historical Society. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

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Johnson Barn

This barn is the only remaining structure of an historic farmstead. According to an ITD study, it is one of only a few remaining Gothic arch barns which were popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is reported that it may be a Sears and Roebuck kit or from an S&R plan. It is located about one quarter mile down a well maintained gravel canal road heading east just below the Phyllis Canal bridge on Joplin Road.

Oct/Nov 2010
Off Joplin Road



Another Johnson Barn

This barn is part of a still existing historic farmstead which also has an historic main house and tenant house as well as several non-historic structures. According to an ITD study, the main house and tenant house have been significantly altered and are not part of the County Treasure designation. The barn was built around 1890 and is typical of the 1890s-1910 barn style. It contains the original materials and workmanship.

Dec/Jan 2011
5560 Joplin Road



Simonson House

This house was built in 1910 and has some characteristics of the four square style. It may have been a farm house originally but its nearness to the community of Eagle could indicate that it was an urban dwelling. The red star is not historic but serves to honor the birth of the family's daughter.

Feb/Mar 2011
1691 North Eagle Rd



Ross House

This house was built around 1905 on a nearby site as a farm house and was recently moved to the present site. According to an ITD study, there have been few if any alterations to the building. It has retained its integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Apr/May 2011
5595 N. McDermott

